

do with a volume, but conveys no information concerning the physical constitution of the quantities in question.

The whole of the work dealt with belongs to the second term of the physics course in the University of Rome. The author compiled it while yet Prof. Blaserna's assistant. His untimely death after succeeding to the chair prevented him from publishing it himself, but that duty has been admirably carried through by his two able disciples.

Azimuth. By G. L. Hosmer. Pp. v+73. (New York: John Wiley and Sons; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd., 1909.) Price 4s. 6d. net.

This work is avowedly not a text-book; it is a hand-book for the practical surveyor, and, as such, should prove very useful. Prof. Hosmer gives just the ordinary methods for checking the angles of a survey by observation of the sun and stars, but the book is removed from the commonplace by the conciseness of its instructions and the numerous practical hints given at all the necessary points. The tables for computing the results are given in the latter part of the book, and the examples are worked out on specimen forms calculated to obviate clerical errors.

The book is nicely printed, illustrated with useful diagrams, and well bound. These features, combined with its handy size, make it a very useful work for the practical surveyor to carry with him as a pocket-book for easy reference.

W. E. R.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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Notes on a Stone Circle in County Cork.

IN view of several references made in NATURE lately to stone circles in Ireland (vol. lxxix., p. 488, February 25), the following notes on one situated at Drumbeg, near Glandore, County Cork, may prove of interest, especially as this circle contains the characteristic "recumbent stone" of the "Aberdeenshire" type in the south-western half of its circumference, a feature not hitherto met with outside that locality.



Drumbeg Circle. Recumbent stone and supporters, viewed from centre of circle, showing notch in hills (solstitial sunset line).

The accompanying photograph shows this stone and its supporters, of which the following dimensions may be given:—recumbent stone, 7 feet long, 1 foot 8 inches deep,

2 feet 6 inches high; right supporter, 4 feet 8 inches high, 1 foot 9 inches deep, 3 feet wide; left supporter, 5 feet high, 1 foot 6 inches deep, 3 feet wide.

The circle stands on a hill-side facing the sea, upon an artificial plateau with a well-defined edge, 160 feet long, on the southern (seaward) side. This edge, otherwise straight, is indented by a "cove" 20 feet in length, directed towards the centre of the circle, which it almost touches externally on its southern side.

A row of four small ovals, and mounds of stones (probably burial-sites), lie in a line a short way outside the plateau to the south-eastward. The remains of (?) a hut-circle of rough stones occur at a distance of 170 feet westward from the main circle, and there is a large solitary outlying boulder situated on a small eminence 100 feet to the north-eastward.

The following astronomical features (sight-lines) are observable in the above remains:—

(1) From the recumbent stone; solstitial summer sunrise over one of the two most important stones of the circle; sky-line elevated $3^{\circ} 40'$. (This line passes almost over the outlying boulder.)

(2) From the same position, May sunrise over the second of the two important stones; hill-line elevated $2^{\circ} 20'$.

(3) From same position (or from centre of circle, see photograph), solstitial winter sunset over a conspicuous gap in the hills, distant one mile.

(4) Edge of the plateau lies in the line of May sunrise or November sunset.

(5) Side of the cove is directed to the solstitial summer sunset over centre of circle, nearly.

(6) Line of stone ovals, outside plateau, is practically that of May-sunrise.

(7) From centre of (?) hut circle, over the northernmost stone of circle (a slab with a rounded profile, thus differing from the remainder, which are of "pillar" form), to the outlying boulder, is the May-sunrise line.

There are no indications of a burial-mound in the centre of the circle.

BOYLE T. SOMERVILLE.

Admiralty Survey Office, Tenby, S. Wales.

Musical Sands in Chile.

THE interesting letter of Mr. Carus-Wilson, dealing with the existence of musical sands, suggests to me that some fact in my experience relating to this subject may be worth putting on record, and may, through the courtesy of your columns, possibly lead to the elucidation of an occurrence which has hitherto lacked explanation, at least in my mind.

Some few miles to the west of the town of Copiapo, in Chile, and, so far as my recollection of the locality carries me, about half a mile to the southward of the railway line, there is a tailing off of a ragged hill-range, which runs about north and south. In a ravine—it is too small to be called a valley—the sand which covers the greater part of that portion of Chile has, blown doubtless by the sea-breeze, been carried up the gully to which I refer, and lies there at a slope equal to the flowing angle of dry sand. The place is locally known by the name of "El Punto del Diabolo," as, given conditions of wind and weather, which time did not allow me to study, a low moaning sound, varying in intensity, can be heard for quite a quarter of a mile away. Amongst the superstitious natives the place is avoided. Thinking it worth a visit, I went there with the late Mr. Edwards, who was then the British Consul in that district. On our arrival we found that the sands were quite silent, but on making a glissade down the slope a gradually increasing "rumble" was heard, which increased in volume as the sand slid away before us. As the sound increased we were subjected to an undulatory movement, so decided that it was difficult